2002. However. it is expected the figure would be the same as it was during Haj 2002 viz 1,20,000 pilgrims out of which 72,000 pilgrims are expected to go through the Haj Committee Mumbai.

5. The improvements and innovations of Haj Management of Indian pilgrims is a continuous exercise. The Government regularly reviews past experience and is constantly exploring ways to further improve Haj management every year.

Portraying of South Africans of Indian Origin

2407. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in South Africa a song was written portraying South Africans of Indian origin as oppressors of black people;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with the Government of South Africa; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Ministry continues to carefully monitor the evolving situation, through its Mission and posts in South Africa. Most of the people of Indian origin in South Africa are South African citizens. South Africa is trying to resolve the issue in the context of its liberal and non-racial Constitution and its commitment to democracy.

Simplification of issuance of Passport

2408. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to simplify the procedure for issuing of passports to citizens without any hassles and hindrance;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government have decided to open more Regional Passport Offices across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?